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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Belgian Congo/Ruanda-Urundi

SUBJECT Immigration from Ruanda-Urundi/Plans for Education

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1. The Belgians are developing the land in the Congo considerably, and private capital is being used in setting up plantations. The white population in the Kivu area is increasing as the climate is comfortable for whites and there is plenty of good land. Immigration from Ruanda-Urundi is being encouraged on quite a large scale. A figure I heard, though I could not verify it, is three hundred families a month were coming in. It seems that there has been some criticism of the way Belgium is conducting the internal affairs of Ruanda-Urundi and there is some fear Ruanda-Urundi may be taken from Belgian control. Because of this, and because Ruanda-Urundi is tremendously overpopulated, the Belgians seem to be trying to build up a good labor force before any such action takes place.
2. Considerable road building is being done in the Kivu area. The road from Bukavu (formerly Costermansville) to Stanleyville will eventually be completed. A road is also being built from Burungu to Lofutu (both very small towns) through virgin territory, and people will be moved in here within a year or two under the immigration impetus, as this is one of the areas which is being opened up. Each family is given a plot of land on which they build a hut. Roads such as this where immigration is taking place are just dirt roads, but they are in pretty good shape. Primitive ways are used in building them; hardly any machinery is used.
3. Much of the land seems to be owned by a private corporation, SINKI (I don't know what the initials mean), and whenever our mission applies for lumber concessions to build homes, etc, we get permission from this organization rather than the government.

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4. In Bukavu, which is the government seat for the Kivu, there is a new one thousand unit housing project here for the natives. The units are one-story high and consist of five rooms, each unit renting for about US\$5 per month, which can be purchased over a period of years. Although there is no real industry here, there are a great many government workers and employees in the big shopping center and the few lumber yards.
5. There seems to be a good attitude on the part of the natives toward their government, and the Belgians carry on quite a benevolent economic program. There has been a "family" law passed which specifies that a married man with a family must be paid a higher wage than a single man who performs the same work; however, the planters in the Kivu area have so far refused to abide by this and no action has yet been taken to force them to do so.
6. Plans are afoot by the Belgian Government for building a university (probably equivalent to a college in the US) at Goma in the near future. A scientific college is being built in the Kivu, where tropical diseases, birds, etc, will be studied. The Kivu area also has a couple of agricultural schools where native agriculturists are trained. Belgian officials encourage good farming practices and travel around the country teaching crop rotation, etc. This is a wheat-raising section, really the "bread-basket" of the area. Quinine used to be quite an important item, but the new drugs have reduced its importance to the point where it is hardly a profitable crop.

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